### PATENT APPLICATION

#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application:

Subrata Mokerji

Group Art Unit:

1775

Serial No.:

10/073,527

Examiner:

Andrew Piziali

Filing Date:

February 11, 2002

Docket No.:

MDYNE/Z002

(formerly) 500-3013-U

Title:

Zirconium Nitride Coating Having A Top Layer Thereon

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

## RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the First Office Action dated December 3, 2003, Applicant herein files a response, including amendments to the claims. As discussed below, Applicant spoke with Examiner Piziali on March 12, 2004, regarding the outstanding Office Action. Applicant appreciates Examiner Piziali's helpfulness with regard to this matter. As explained below, a conclusion was reached regarding the allowance of all claims subject to the amendments presented herein.

The outstanding Office Action indicates a shortened statutory period for reply of three months (i.e. reply by March 3, 2004). Therefore, Applicant hereby requests a one-month extension of time in which to file this response and amendment. The petition and fee for extension is enclosed herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the following amendments and allow all claims as discussed.

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

#### Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that these papers are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date below and in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Response, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

March 24, 2004 Date of Deposit

(Typed or Printed Name)

(Signature)

# Documents deposited:

- 1. Response and Amendment to First Office Action (8 pages);
- 2. Extension of time and check for \$110.00